

**BEFORE THE TENNESSEE REGULATORY AUTHORITY**

**NASHVILLE, TENNESSEE**

**April 7, 2003**

**IN RE:**

**PETITION FOR APPROVAL OF  
AMENDMENT TO INTERCONNECTION  
AGREEMENT BETWEEN BELL SOUTH  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS, INC. AND  
THE ELECTRIC POWER BOARD OF  
CHATTANOOGA**

**DOCKET NO. 03-00073**

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**ORDER APPROVING  
FOURTH AMENDMENT TO INTERCONNECTION AGREEMENT**

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This matter came before Chairman Sara Kyle, Director Deborah Taylor Tate, and Director Ron Jones of the Tennessee Regulatory Authority (the "Authority" or "TRA"), the voting panel assigned to this docket, at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference held on March 17, 2003, to consider, pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Petition for approval of the fourth amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and the Electric Power Board of Chattanooga.

The original interconnection agreement between these parties was filed on June 20, 2001, and was assigned Docket No. 01-00542. It was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on August 7, 2001. The first amendment was filed on April 2, 2002, under Docket No. 02-00341 and was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on May 21, 2002. The second set of amendments was filed on May 6, 2002, under Docket No. 02-00510 and was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on July 23, 2002. The third

amendment was filed on July 24, 2002, under Docket No. 02-00809, and was approved at a regularly scheduled Authority Conference on September 9, 2002. The fourth amendment, which is the subject of this docket, was filed on January 29, 2003.

Based upon a review of the amendment, the record in this matter, and the standards for review set forth in 47 U.S.C. § 252, the Directors unanimously granted the Petition and made the following findings and conclusions:

- 1) The Authority has jurisdiction over public utilities pursuant to Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.
- 2) The amendment is in the public interest as it provides consumers with alternative sources of telecommunications services within the BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. service area.
- 3) The amendment is not discriminatory to telecommunications service providers that are not parties thereto.
- 4) 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(A) provides that a state commission may reject a negotiated agreement only if it “discriminates against a telecommunications carrier not a party to the agreement” or if the implementation of the agreement “is not consistent with the public interest, convenience or necessity.” Unlike arbitrated agreements, a state commission may not reject a negotiated agreement on the grounds that the agreement fails to meet the requirements of 47 U.S.C. §§ 251 or 252(d).<sup>1</sup> Thus, although the Authority finds that neither ground for rejection of a negotiated agreement exists, this finding should not be construed to mean that the amendment is consistent with §§ 251 or 252(d) or, for that matter, previous Authority decisions.
- 5) No person or entity has sought to intervene in this docket.

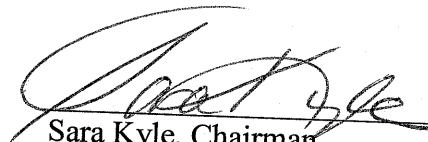
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<sup>1</sup> See 47 U.S.C. § 252(e)(2)(B).

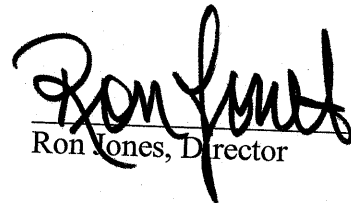
6) The amendment is reviewable by the Authority pursuant to 47 U.S.C. § 252 and Tenn. Code Ann. § 65-4-104.

**IT IS THEREFORE ORDERED THAT:**

The Petition is granted, and the fourth amendment to the interconnection agreement negotiated between BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc. and the Electric Power Board of Chattanooga is approved and is subject to the review of the Authority as provided herein.

  
Sara Kyle, Chairman

  
Deborah Taylor Tate, Director

  
Ron Jones, Director